

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

July 25, 1996

Business Meeting

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for the regular business meeting in Conference Rooms D and E of the James Monroe State Office Building in Richmond, Virginia, on Thursday, July 25, 1996, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President
Mr. Peter Decker, Jr.
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.
Mrs. Kay James

Ms. Lil Tuttle, Vice-President
Mr. R. Lee Ware
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke
Mr. Robert Patterson

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe
Secretary and Superintendent of Public
Instruction

Ms. Easton, president, presided and call the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

Congratulations were given to Senator Jones now Judge Jones by Ms. Easton. Ms. Easton welcomed Dr. La Pointe, Superintendent of Public Instruction and recognized Wil Bryant, Deputy Secretary of Education.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by Reverend Gwendolyn G. Young, Licensure Specialist at the Department of Education and Dean of the Richmond Christian Center Bible Institute and School of Ministry. Ms. Easton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Harris noted that there was one correction to the minutes of the June 1996 meeting. The correction is that Ms. James was not present to vote at the meeting and the minutes should reflect this.

Mr. Ware made a motion for approval of the minutes of the June 27, 1996 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Yecke and carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Easton noted that some of the discussion items might be moved up on the agenda since the items were relatively light. The motion was made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Tuttle, and carried unanimously for approval of the agenda.

Highlight on Students

Derwin Jallice, a student violinist at South Lakes High School in Fairfax County performed for the Board accompanied by Nancy Kredel, Orchestra Director at Centerville Elementary School in Fairfax County.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Mr. Decker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Final Review of Financial Report on Literary Fund

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the financial report on the status of the Literary Fund, as of June 30, 1996, was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda.

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Applications for Literary Fund Loans

The Superintendent's recommendation for approval of the applications for Literary Fund Loans for the following projects was accepted by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda, subject to approval of final plans (' 22.1-140 of the *Code of Virginia*) and availability of funds:

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Brunswick County	Brunswick Senior High	2,500,000.00
Brunswick County	Brunswick Senior High	2,500,000.00
Cumberland County	Cumberland Vo-Tech Center	300,000.00
Prince George County	J. E. Moore Jr. High	60,000.00

Prince George County	N. B. Clements, Jr. High	90,000.00
COUNTY, SCHOOL OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Roanoke County	Glenvar High	2,500,000.00
Roanoke County	Back Creek Elementary	600,000.00
Roanoke County	Cave Spring High	2,500,000.00
Roanoke County	Cave Spring Elementary	800,000.00
Richmond City	New Southside Middle	5,000.00
	Total	\$16,850,000.00

Final Review of Recommendations Concerning Release of Literary Fund Loans for Placement on Waiting List

The Superintendent's recommendations that funds be released for the following projects, was approved by the Board of Education's vote on the consent agenda:

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Roanoke County	Fort Lewis Elementary	1,300,000.00
Franklin County	Boones Mill Elementary	1,029,000.00
Franklin County	Dudley Elementary	539,000.00
Franklin County	Ferrum Elementary	967,000.00
Franklin County	Glade Hill Elementary	988,000.00
Franklin County	Sontag Elementary	1,972,000.00
Westmoreland County	Washington District Elem.	1,000,000.00
Westmoreland County	Cople Elementary	700,000.00

Westmoreland County	Montross Elem./Middle	3,300,000.00
	Total	\$10,895,000.00

First Priority Waiting List

COUNTY, CITY OR TOWN	SCHOOL	AMOUNT
Radford City	Radford High	\$714,508

Public Comment

The following individuals spoke during the public comment period:

Roger Willetts	Laurie Hensley
Maggie Williams	Fred Yates
Lori Carroll	Margaret Robison
Amy Fratwell	Joe Guaino.

Ms. Yecke expressed that the Board should encourage the General Assembly to increase resources to VSDB and indicated that she thought it was important that a local board for the school be in place.

Mrs. James indicated that she feels that sexual abuse should not be tolerated under any circumstances. When administrators are aware of it, it is their responsibility to take action. Ms. Easton agreed with Mrs. James and indicated that the board takes all of these concerns quite seriously.

Mr. Harris indicated that the Board should go back and review the Governor's Strike Force Education Committee recommendations. He expressed his concerns about the situations that were presented to the board during public comments.

Mr. Decker stated that the Board was the VSDB's school board and that as President, Ms. Easton could authorize the organization of a committee to work on VSDB concerns. Mr. Decker also indicated how strongly he feels about the abuse.

Ms. Tuttle indicated that she was concerned that the speakers on both sides of the VSDB issues did not appear to be communicating to each other well. She asked about the testing that was given to students and whether or not parents were given the results.

Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton: Literacy Passport Test Results

Item H was moved to after the Public Comment period to maintain a continuity to the board's questions to the public comments. Dr. La Pointe outlined the efforts the Department of Education had undertaken since the last board meeting and that the issues have been pursued intensively and the board will receive a report on those efforts at a later date.

Dr. Ken Magill reported on his recent investigation into certain issues at VSDB and recommended that the committee was already in place to deal with VSDB and new members should be appointed. Mr. Decker acknowledged John Pleasants from Department of Corrections after his introduction by Dr. Magill. Dr. Magill introduced Dr. Joseph Panko, the Superintendent of the VSDB-Staunton. Dr. Panko presented an overview of the VSDB-Staunton on the school's mission, the student population, Literacy Passport Tests and signing by educators at the school.

Ms. Easton asked Dr. Panko to comment on the impression of one parent that it's okay to fail. Dr. Panko explained that the range of students at VSDB-Staunton is wide from mentally handicapped to college-bound students. Depending on the level of their mental handicap, some students may not be able to pass the LPT. Mrs. Yecke asked that staff look at the differences between cued speech and sign language and the success of students using one or the other language. Mr. Decker asked for clarification on the type of student who attends VSDB-Staunton. He asked if VSDB-Staunton students were those who primarily can not be placed in a mainstream program in regular public schools. Dr. Panko further clarified the typical student at VSDB-Staunton as being a student who is not a mainstream candidate. Mrs. Tuttle wanted to know how many students are deaf only, blind only, or if students are primarily multi-handicapped. Dr. Panko indicated that he did not have that specific information available. Mrs. Tuttle wanted to know how students are accepted at VSDB-Staunton. Dr. Panko explained that students are only accepted via an LEA. Dr. Magill pointed out to the Board that state and federal law gives the placement authority to local school systems.

Ms. Easton asked for Dr. Panko to comment on the alleged sexual abuse incidents. Dr. Panko stated that VSDB-Staunton has a suspension policy in place for students who have sexual encounters

on campus. Dr. Panko indicated that there were details on the issues of sexual abuse from the public comment period that he is unable to comment on publicly. He stated that he views these types of matters very seriously and that the VSDB should, will and has acted responsibly in these types of matters.

Ms. Easton will set up a committee to further investigate issues at the VSDB in Staunton and Hampton. Mr. Decker indicated that he feels a standard operating procedure should be in place as to any sexual encounters that occur with a student. Dr. La Pointe indicated that the Department Of Education will not tolerate any sexual criminal activity at the VSDB.

DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES

Ms. Easton introduced the following second year law students: Patricia Smith, T. C. Williams Law School, Richmond; Betty Scott, Marshall Law School, College of William and Mary; and Jim Rexi of the University of Virginia School of Law.

Mrs. Yecke indicated that more progress has been made to the Board of Education home page and Mrs. James indicated that e-mail is an excellent way to contact Board members.

Action Items

Final Review of the ABTEL Recommendation on the Continued Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs at Eastern Mennonite University, the University of Virginia, Hampton University, and Marymount University

Thomas Elliott presented several background points not covered in the Board's materials on this matter and asked the Board to approve the recommendations to continue the accreditation of the above listed institutions. Mr. Decker moved to accept the recommendation and Mr. Harris seconded, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Harris mentioned the high scores at Hampton University and that this is his alma mater.

Final Review of Obtaining Membership in the Educational Leaders Council

Mrs. Tuttle outlined benefits of Educational Leaders Council membership that would be received by the Board including contacts and information that would help the Board in their concerns and future work. Mrs. Yecke moved and Mrs. James seconded that the Board apply for

membership in the ELC. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Easton asked Dr. La Pointe to submit the paperwork.

Final Review of the Six-Year Technology Plan

Dr. Ida Hill introduced the outgoing chairman of the Virginia Educational Technology Advisory Committee, Mr. Bill Thomas and Mr. Mark Delp, Director of Technology in Henrico who will be assuming Mr. Thomas' position. Dr. Hill presented an overview of the plan, the public comments that were received concerning the plan, and outlined changes made since the first presentation of the plan in September of 1995. Dr. La Pointe expressed his appreciation for the work Dr. Hill had put into the evolution of the plan. Mrs. Tuttle indicated that she is concerned about the fact that four of the five focus areas is administrative related as opposed to student related. She also expressed her concerns that students might not have unlimited access to computers, and the need for privacy. Mr. Harris pointed out that technology should be a tool to help students, that it does not define education. Mrs. Yecke asked if the committee will provide evaluation of the plan and the changing needs. Mr. Decker moved that the plan be accepted and Mr. Harris seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Easton asked for an indept review of the implementation of the plan and how this plan has increased academic achievements of students in March, 1997.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Report on Results of the Virginia State Assessment Program (VSAP) and the Literacy Passport Testing (LPT) Program, Spring 1996

Dr. Doris Redfield presented an overview of the Literacy Passport Test from the spring of 1996 and the Virginia State Assessment Program. Mrs. Tuttle asked about the numbers in reading and writing in relation to student performance with the Literacy Passport Test. Mrs. Yecke requested that a T-test be prepared on the numbers from 1989-90 to the present year and another T-test be prepared on the numbers from last year to this year to see if there has been an increase in performance with the Literacy Passport Test. Dr. La Pointe thanked Dr. Redfield for her presentation and indicated that there will be some significant differences in future scores.

Update on the Proposed Revisions of the SOA

Lin Corbin-Howerton stated that the Pre-NORIA had been filed and that the Board could now proceed with the procedures necessary to the revisions of the SOA. She commented on the issues that need to be included and considered during the revision process. A handout was distributed to Board

members outlining the basis for an Op-ed article. Mrs. Tuttle asked that the fifth bullet of the handout be rephrased for better clarification, while Mrs. Yecke requested that the last bullet also be changed for better clarification. Mrs. James asked if the complete presentation prepared by Mrs. Yecke be done up in both hard copy and overhead for use at the hearings. Mrs. Tuttle suggested that a questionnaire be prepared for the public to complete at the hearings for submittal to the Department of Education.

First Review of Exemption Request for the School Breakfast Program

Dr. La Pointe recommended that the Board adopt the request for the exemption. Ms. Easton indicated that the Board would review the material.

Executive Session

Mrs. Tuttle then moved that the Board go into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code ' 2.1-344.A. 4 specifically to discuss personnel matters not related to public business, in order to protect the privacy of individuals. The motion was seconded by Mr. Decker and carried unanimously. The Board adjourned for Executive Session at 12:40 p.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion, seconded by Mr. Decker, and carried unanimously, that the Board reconvene in open session. The board reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

Mrs. Tuttle made a motion that the Board certify by roll call vote that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification motion applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

Board Roll Call

Mr. Patterson - Aye	Ms. Yecke - Aye
Mr. Harris - Aye	Mrs. James - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye	Ms. Easton - Aye
Mr. Decker - Aye	

Mr. Ware abstained from the motion but noted his concurrence with its substance.

Final Review of Nominations to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure

Mrs. Tuttle moved that the following people be appointed to the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure:

Susan Poore	Kay Harold
William Scheff	Gary Costello
Dorothy Jaeckle	Delores Anderson
Amy Dobler	Holly Hawthorne

Mr. Harris seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Each appointment is retroactive to July 1.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 2:42 p.m.

President